

# *Making a Difference*

**BLM's 2010 Volunteer Annual Report**



**BLM**



# From the DIRECTOR

On behalf of Secretary Ken Salazar and all of us at the Bureau of Land Management, it is my pleasure to present the BLM's Volunteer Annual Report for 2010. This publication caps a winning year for our volunteers, chronicling extraordinary accomplishments by both exceptional individuals and pioneering groups.

As the nation's largest land manager, with more than 245 million acres of natural and cultural resources to care for, the BLM has a huge job to do. And the reality is that BLM employees can't be everywhere at once—and they can't do the job alone. Whether with national organizations, local community groups, dedicated adults, or service-minded kids, BLM-ers know we work best when we work together.

Our greatest conservation legacies often emerge when diverse stakeholders, government agencies, and "ordinary" citizens come together to address shared challenges and to act on their mutual devotion to conservation and community. In 2010, our volunteers spent hours, days—even months—in service to their communities, the BLM, the Department of the Interior, and



our nation's spectacular resources. They found unique and varied ways to put their deep sense of personal commitment to work. Faced with damaged or compromised resources, our volunteers chose to envision better days: ecosystem health regained, a wetland restored, a fish population rejuvenated, native seeds safeguarded, trails improved.

Our volunteers have helped to promote the conservation of America's cherished landscapes and to preserve natural and heritage resources. They've brought innovative approaches to resource management and engaged diverse entities—including youth—in accomplishing the Department's mission. As President Obama remarked regarding his "America's Great Outdoors" initiative, "[W]orking together to protect the environment we share, lifting up the best ideas wherever we find them, preserving the great outdoors for our children and for their children— that's our responsibility."

As Americans, we want to be proud of what we do, not only in 10 years, but 100 years from now. Our volunteers give us confidence in a bright tomorrow and are an inspiration to us all. We are sincerely grateful for their efforts.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Robert V. Abbey".

Robert V. Abbey

Director, Bureau of Land Management





# Selected HIGHLIGHTS by BLM Program

## RECREATION

**Glennallen, AK:** American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds were used to enhance the Top of the World Trail, a popular destination near the Delta Wild and Scenic River. A Student Conservation Association crew elevated segments, established drainage networks, and prepared areas for trail-hardening panels, rehabilitating more than 5,000 linear feet. Three stream crossings were also redesigned to minimize erosion and riparian disturbances.

**Yuma, AZ:** A local Eagle Scout rebuilt a deteriorated footbridge at the Betty's Kitchen Watchable Wildlife Area as his leadership service project. After consulting with BLM recreation staff, the Scout, eight other high school students, and several adult sponsors installed "plastic wood" and rust-resistant bolts to improve bridge safety and reduce upkeep.

**Craig, CO:** For the past 3 years, a GeoCaching Colorado volunteer has helped to make National Public Lands Day (NPLD) successful for the Little Snake Field Office. The event now draws geocachers from throughout Colorado and elsewhere, and has encouraged local community involvement in public lands activities. The volunteer also developed a local "earthcache," a Geological Society of America-sponsored virtual cache that rewards knowledge about local geologic features.

**Grand Junction, CO:** The Hilltop Experiential Learning Project (HELP) provided local at-risk youth with a learning opportunity that also benefited the public lands. Youth crews spent 2 days a week during the spring and fall as volunteers with the BLM recreation management program. Twelve kids contributed a total of 599 hours of service, rerouting some trails, constructing others, and repairing deteriorated sections with skillful rock work.

**Kremmling, CO:** Members of three motorized-recreation clubs assisted in summer dune cleanups at the North Sand Hills Special Recreation Management Area, the only off-highway vehicle sand recreation area in Colorado. The volunteers traveled long distances to comb the area's 300 acres of dunes, collecting trash as well as grills, vehicle parts, and barbed wire.

**Shoshone/Craters of the Moon National Monument, ID:** More than 70 experienced volunteers from the Silver Sage Grotto and the Gem State Grotto spent hundreds of hours monitoring and maintaining local caves and reporting their findings to the BLM. They also led members of the public on recreational tours through sensitive caves, providing educational outreach and emphasizing "Leave No Trace" stewardship principles.

**Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area, NM:** Volunteers from the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project documented and restored cave resources, conducted environmental education programs, and supported studies of microbiological diversity, cave hydrology, and speleogenesis. Participants also cut and welded 3,000 pounds of stainless steel to construct new support frames in the Snowy River access portal. Volunteers and BLM personnel hauled the frames and 2 tons of concrete 1 mile into the cave and carried out the old structures. About half the trip each way was through waist-deep, 56-degree (F) water.

**San Juan Islands, WA:** The BLM partnered with local agencies and the Lopez Island Conservation Corps for an Earth Day beach cleanup. Youths removed 1,200 pounds of garbage, including tires, from the shoreline. Corps members also cleared, rerouted, and maintained miles of trails, using various watercraft to travel to remote project locations. More than 20 youths rotated through the program, volunteering an average of 16 to 20 hours each.

## CULTURAL and PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**Bishop, CA:** The River Springs Stage Station is the last stagecoach stop remaining on eastern California public lands. Volunteers joined the California Department of Fish and Game and BLM cultural resource specialists to restore the station building, which had been severely weakened by vandalism. As a followup, diverse NPLD volunteers, including a Bishop Paiute youth group leader and a local cattle rancher, stabilized the stone corral and loading chute, installed an information kiosk, repaired a wetland fence and gate, and removed invasive weeds and debris.

**Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, CO:** As part of the Gunnison River Rock Art Shelter Project, archaeology professors and students from Western Wyoming College and a team of New Zealand cultural resource specialists volunteered 980 hours to excavate a rock art and shelter site. The prehistoric deposits and archaeological remains, more than 8,000 years old, are being analyzed and curated at the college.

**Cottonwood, ID:** The BLM partnered with Oregon State University to excavate the Cooper's Ferry archaeological site along the Lower Salmon River. An anthropology professor and 24 college students from across the United States documented archaeological features, including freshwater river mussel shells, bone fragments, and fire-cracked rock. Volunteers also assisted with the monitoring of adjacent sites, public interpretation, and artifact curation.

**California Historic Trail Center, NV:** Volunteers assisted with public events, including a 4-day National Cowboy Poetry Gathering open house. During California Trail Days, volunteer reenactors offered both scheduled and impromptu interpretive performances and activities. On several occasions, the Elko juvenile justice coordinator also provided work crews to maintain trails and groom the center's interpretive plaza.

**Roseburg, OR:** At Kellogg Terrace, the BLM hosted a 10-day volunteer archaeological excavation project. Participants ranged from a 13-year-old local farm resident to a vacationing California couple. Altogether, volunteers contributed over 500 hours to the project, with 20 percent of the time donated

by people under the age of 25. Artifacts recovered included projectile points, scraping tools, and a fishing net weight, all probably from a prehistoric Upper Umpqua or Calapooya pithouse dwelling.

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**Campbell Tract, AK:** More than 100 NPLD volunteers worked on projects at Anchorage's Campbell Tract and at Far North Bicentennial Park. Volunteers thinned and cleared a trail to increase visibility and decrease bear/human conflicts. They also placed 450 plants around a new musher bridge, removed weeds and planted native wildflowers at entrance signs, and completed a variety of groundskeeping projects at the Campbell Creek Science Center.

**Multiple Sites, ID:** Coordinated by the Plant Conservation Alliance, Seeds of Success is an award-winning interagency program to collect seeds from native plant populations across the United States. There are now 38 collecting teams in the nation. During 2010, several BLM Idaho volunteers assisted with the collection and cleaning of native seed from locations around the state; the plant material thus acquired has been used for local restoration and research.

**Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, VA:** In the spring, local horse enthusiasts broke ground on a pollinator garden at Meadowood's primary trail access point and parking area. Plantings included native wildflowers, forbs, shrubs, and tree seedlings, which offer habitat for a variety of insects and other pollinators. Additional volunteers maintained the site, watering the garden throughout the summer and weeding and mulching it in the fall. Future plans call for interpretive signage to educate visitors about the importance of pollinator species and the plants that support them.

## WILD HORSES and BURROS

**Spring Creek Herd Management Area, CO:** Ten students from the University of Missouri spent their spring break volunteering on public lands in southwestern Colorado. In the Spring Creek Herd Management Area, students installed a white wire on a fence to make it more visible to wild horses during "gathers" by the BLM. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, this "alternative spring break" program is coordinated by the San Juan Mountains Association in partnership with the BLM.





**Jackson, MS:** A young BLM volunteer and her adopted palomino mustang, Doc's Golden Allegro, brought down the house at the 2010 Dixie National Quarter Horse Show's "free style reining" event. Over 5,000 spectators gave the spirited twosome the only standing ovation of the night for their impressive performance. They have become outstanding ambassadors for the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program.



**Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, MT:** Staff from the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center assisted the BLM in monitoring the Pryor Mountain herd, removing a fence, and restoring a riparian area. Center staff, along with volunteers from the Wild Sheep Foundation, also installed water catchment systems—or guzzlers—on the horse range.



## WILDERNESS

**Warm Springs Wilderness Area, AZ:** Volunteers from the Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona and the Arizona Wilderness Coalition camped out to improve fences. The horsemen packed materials in and out, and coalition members repaired or replaced barbed wire fences. The restored fencing will protect riparian vegetation from the area's wild burros and benefit species that depend on quality riparian habitat.

**Big Jacks Creek Wilderness Area, ID:** At this recently designated wilderness area, NPLD volunteers transformed 1 mile of a closed vehicle route into a scenic canyon hiking trail. Additional activities included sowing native plants and seeds and marking barbed wire fences to increase visibility and reduce sage-grouse entanglement mortality.

**Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, FL:** For the 15<sup>th</sup> year, local students volunteered for NPLD projects at Jupiter Inlet, a "Let's Move Outside" site. Kids collected trash, gathered mangrove seedlings, and removed exotic species. Over 75 garbage bags were filled with debris totaling more than 1,200 pounds.



**Carson River, NV:** The annual Carson River Cleanup drew 175 volunteers from the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, and other organizations. Volunteers at the 1-day event removed about 250 cubic yards of debris from public lands in the Carson River corridor, contributing approximately 1,050 hours of service.

## RIPARIAN and WATERSHED

**Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area, AZ:** Selected as a BLM "Let's Move Outside" site under the First Lady's "Let's Move" initiative, this unique area hosts the Gila Box River Trail, Arizona's first designated "water trail." Eleven Boy Scouts and two other volunteers floated the 3-mile segment to remove litter from banks and picnic areas.

**Kerber Creek, CO:** Partners helped to restore 60 acres of riparian habitat along 19 miles of stream in the Rio Grande Basin, which provides drinking and irrigation water to more than 10 million residents along its length. Volunteers have contributed more than 9,000 hours to the project, which has also generated benefits for economically strapped local businesses.

**Kemmerer, WY:** For Earth Day, staff from the BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, and Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge joined local Boy Scouts and Youth Alternative Home Association volunteers to enhance the west bank of the Green River at the BLM-managed Slate Creek and Weeping Rock Campgrounds. Forty-five 20-foot-tall cottonwood trees were planted at the sites.

## ENERGY and MINERALS

**Tucson Field Office/Gila District, AZ:** Twenty-five trained Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Ambassador Program members assisted the BLM in locating abandoned mine lands for future remediation. The volunteers employed global positioning system technology and digital photography to document locations, which were reported to the BLM and the

Arizona state mine inspector. During the 2010 field season, ambassadors reported 70 abandoned mines and volunteered over 900 hours of their time.

**Gunnison, CO:** When metal leaching and toxic dust became concerns at the Ute Ulay Paste Repository, a storage site for mine tailings, the tailings were temporarily removed and the repository lined with cement-rock paste. Once the tailings were replaced, the repository was capped with more paste and topsoil, compost and fertilizer were spread, and the area was seeded and mulched. The BLM and volunteers from diverse partner organizations then planted 2,500 trees and shrubs to complete the site reclamation.

## EDUCATION and INTERPRETATION

**Campbell Creek Science Center, AK:** During Water Discovery Days, Anchorage fourth graders rotated through education stations about aquatic insect adaptations, insects' usefulness as creek health indicators, and the water cycle and watershed health. Partner groups planned the event, staffed stations, furnished equipment, and provided food for volunteers, enabling the BLM to reach 803 students and 144 adults during the 3-day event.

**Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area, CA:** Piedras Blancas Light Station Association volunteers led tours for more than 5,000 visitors. They conducted an educational outreach program for 11 classes of fourth-grade students and constructed a lighthouse watch-room replica, which was used on tours to introduce visitors to local marine mammals. In addition, California Polytechnic State University students constructed a one-quarter-scale working model of the first-order Fresnel lens once used in the light tower.

**Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center, MT:** Nearly 6,000 people visited the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center in 2010, a new visitation record. A cadre of volunteers presented diverse interpretive programs on the natural and cultural history of the area. About 750 students attended 63 programs at the center, and offsite programs were delivered to an additional 125 students.

**Pompeys Pillar National Monument, MT:** Pompeys Pillar volunteers contributed 3,918 hours in staffing the visitor center retail store and interacting with visitors. They also presented environmental education programs to more than 2,000 schoolchildren and played key roles in the annual Clark Days celebration, helping to plan and deliver living history programs. In addition, they secured grants totaling more than \$100,000 for interpretive exhibits for the center.

### **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT:**

Utah State University students generated plans for trailheads and interpretive facilities within both the monument and the town of Escalante. Each team spent a day in its assigned corridor with a BLM employee familiar with area-specific issues. In the monument, students developed concepts for parts of several routes.

Those working in Escalante developed an overall recreation plan as well as detailed studies for two parks and the rodeo grounds.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

**BLM "Making A Difference" National Volunteer Awards:** Five individuals, three couples, and one BLM employee received BLM 2011 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards for their public service contributions. Four of the winners were honored in a new "Lifetime Achievement" category. Individual/couple honorees were: Jim and Nancy Noethe, Safford, AZ; Duane Wilson, Challis, ID; Jesse and Jo Ann Perry, Carlsbad, NM; and Noel Poe, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT. "Lifetime Achievement" award recipients were Robert E. Lee, Lake Havasu, AZ; Dee and Betty Zeller, Palm Springs-South Coast, CA; Charles (Chuck) M. Redman, Las Cruces, NM; and Johnson Stearns, Roswell, NM. Bill Papich of Farmington, NM, was the winning BLM employee. Photos and winner profiles are available on the BLM Volunteer Program website at [www.blm.gov/volunteer](http://www.blm.gov/volunteer).

**Secretary of the Interior's "Partners in Conservation" Awards:** Four BLM-led partnerships received 2010 Secretarial "Partners in Conservation" Awards for achievements in conservation, resource preservation, land management innovation, and engagement of diverse entities. The winning partnerships were: National Riparian Service Team, nationwide; Native Fish Conservation and Restoration Partnership, AZ; Seeds of Success Partnership, nationwide; and Modoc County, CA. BLM Director Bob Abbey presented the awards at a special ceremony in Washington, DC.

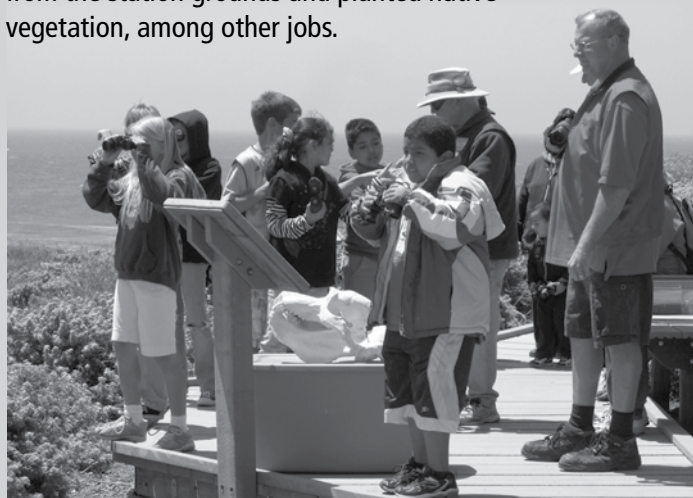
**National Public Lands Day:** In 2010, NPLD engaged the services of an estimated 170,000 volunteers working on 2,080 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Of these numbers, 17,000 BLM volunteers performed work on 230 projects at 125 sites hosted by 84 field offices in 16 states. These projects produced millions of dollars in enhancements to the BLM's public lands and facilities. More information on National Public Lands Day is available at [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org).

# NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM



Volunteer contributions to designated units within the BLM's National Conservation System (NLCS) are vitally important to achieving BLM and NLCS mission goals. In fiscal year (FY) 2010, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NLCS, volunteers contributed 378,184 hours of service to NLCS lands, including national monuments, national conservation areas, wilderness areas, and other treasured landscapes. These hours are included in the figures in the charts presented in this report.

Community support for the missions of the NLCS and BLM is evident from the hundreds of people who volunteered their time at such NLCS sites as Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area in central California, pictured here. In addition to leading tours and conducting an educational outreach program, volunteers removed invasive ice plant from the station grounds and planted native vegetation, among other jobs.



## National Volunteer Totals for Fiscal Year 2010

Program	Volunteer Hours <sup>1</sup>	Donated/Hosted Worker Hours <sup>1</sup>	Total Hours
Recreation	437,105	227,365	664,470
Biological Resources	59,705	57,335	117,040
Wild Horses and Burros	21,157	92,870	114,027
Cadastral Survey	6,686	80	6,766
Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas	30,498	4,747	35,245
Riparian, Watershed	15,818	29,579	45,397
Cultural, Historic	73,761	2,229	75,990
Minerals	2,206	4,138	6,344
Support Services	38,683	8,865	47,548
Environmental Education/Interpretation	78,148	7,729	85,877
Other	22,244	23,834	46,078
<b>Total</b>	<b>786,011</b>	<b>458,771</b>	<b>1,244,782</b>
Funds Expended	\$633,037	\$1,231,251	\$1,864,288
Value of Work <sup>2</sup>	\$16,789,195	\$9,799,349	\$26,588,544

## Volunteer Activity for Fiscal Years 2004-2010

Year	Total Hours	Value to BLM <sup>1</sup>	Work Years <sup>2</sup>	Value of 1 Work Hour <sup>3</sup>	Value of 1 Work Year <sup>2,3</sup>
2010	1,244,782	\$26,588,544	692	\$21.36	\$38,448
2009	1,132,936	\$23,621,716	629	\$20.85	\$37,530
2008	1,202,257	\$24,345,704	668	\$20.25	\$36,450
2007	1,285,678	\$25,083,578	714	\$19.51	\$35,118
2006	1,346,674	\$25,277,071	748	\$18.77	\$33,786
2005	1,292,859	\$23,323,176	718	\$18.04	\$32,472
2004	1,506,365	\$26,436,706	837	\$17.55	\$31,590

<sup>1</sup> The 2010 volunteer program was accomplished at a cost of \$1,864,288, for a return of about \$14.26 for every \$1.00 expended.

<sup>2</sup> 1 work year = 1,800 hours.

<sup>3</sup> The value of volunteer contributions is calculated annually by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)), a national leadership forum committed to volunteerism and citizen action. The dollar figure is based on the latest data available for the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers as published in the yearly *Economic Report of the President*.

## Summary of BLM State Office Volunteer Contributions, Fiscal Year 2010

State	Hours	Value <sup>1</sup>	Work Years <sup>2</sup>	Number of Individuals
Alaska	31,080	\$663,869	17	2,490
Arizona	114,530	\$2,446,361	64	3,743
California	284,661	\$6,080,359	158	7,960
Colorado	223,453	\$4,772,956	124	4,684
Eastern States	25,567	\$546,111	14	719
Idaho	48,446	\$1,034,807	27	1,540
Montana/Dakotas	27,075	\$578,322	15	543
New Mexico	86,654	\$1,850,929	48	2,494
Nevada	137,964	\$2,946,911	77	1,031
Oregon/Washington	170,767	\$3,647,583	95	2,532
Utah	77,083	\$1,646,493	43	2,554
Wyoming	16,911	\$361,219	10	528
National Interagency Fire Center	175	\$3,738	0	2
National Operations Center	0	\$0	0	0
National Training Center	146	\$3,119	0	3
Washington Office	270	\$5,767	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,244,782</b>	<b>\$26,588,544</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>30,825</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on a rate of \$21.36 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).

<sup>2</sup> 1 work year = 1,800 hours.

◀ <sup>1</sup> The term "volunteer," as used in the rest of this report includes "donated workers." Volunteers work for the BLM without pay. They donate their time, and in some instances, equipment and money to assist the BLM with a variety of jobs. Donated or hosted workers, on the other hand, are paid by another organization but work for the BLM at no charge. Hosted workers made up about 36.9 percent of the total volunteer time in 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Based on a rate of \$21.36 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).

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**Cover:** Volunteers prepare to remove a logjam from Peekaboo Canyon, one of the myriad slot canyons within Utah's rugged Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Photo by Karen Kramer.

For more information on the BLM Volunteer Program, please visit our website at [www.blm.gov/volunteer](http://www.blm.gov/volunteer).